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| 10/592,969      | 06/25/2008  | Silvia Gerstner      | 2004P00358WOUS      | 4067             |

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BSH HOME APPLIANCES CORPORATION  
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| EXAMINER |
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ROHRHOFF, DANIEL J

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

3637

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| NOTIFICATION DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
|-------------------|---------------|

10/21/2010

ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

NBN-IntelProp@bshg.com

|                              |                                      |  |  |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b><br>10/592,969 | <b>Applicant(s)</b><br>GERSTNER ET AL. |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b><br>DAN ROHRHOFF      | <b>Art Unit</b><br>3637                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 June 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 18 and 19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 September 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/14/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 10-17, drawn to a refrigerator.

Group II, claim(s) 18-19, drawn to a method for manufacturing a curved decorative strip for a refrigerator.

2. The groups of inventions listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: Group II requires bending and cutting of the decorative strip.

3. During a telephone conversation with Mr. Andre Pallapies on 9/23/10 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 10-17. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 18-19 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

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5. The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims.

Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and the product claims are subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be considered for rejoinder.

All claims directed to a nonelected process invention must require all the limitations of an allowable product claim for that process invention to be rejoined.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103 and 112. Until all claims to the elected product are found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowable product claim will not be rejoined. See MPEP § 821.04(b). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution to require the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.** Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

### ***Specification***

6. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The specification does not contain section headings and paragraph 6 contains a typographical error, "achieve din" should read --achieved in--. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Drawings***

7. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the refrigerator comprising an inner space enclosed by a heat-insulating housing of claim 10 and the door compartment of claim 17 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner,

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the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

10. Claims 10-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leimkuehler et al. (US patent application publication 2003/0020385) (hereinafter Leimkuehler) in view of Fisher (US patent 1,967,666).

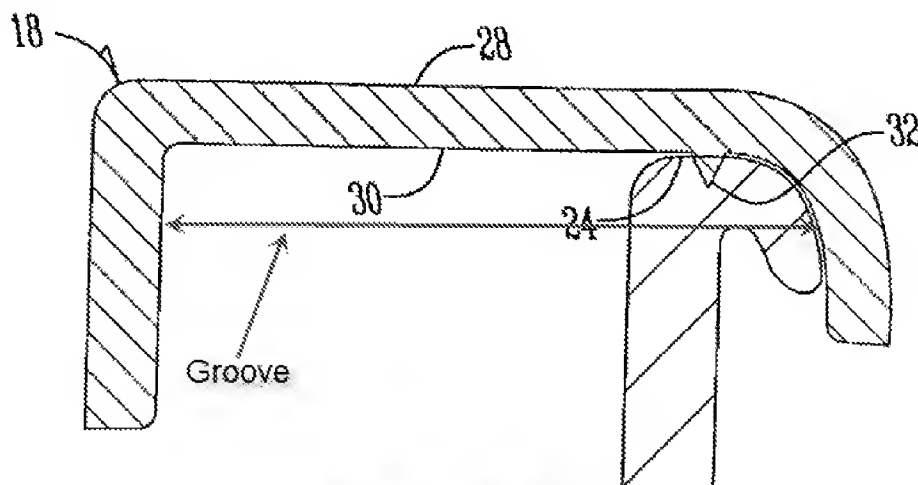
11. Regarding claim 10, Leimkuehler discloses a refrigerator comprising: an inner space (inside of 10) enclosed by a heat-insulating housing (walls of 10); at least one compartment (16) for accommodating articles to be cooled and being disposed within

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the inner space (Fig. 1) and having a curved edge (24); and a strip (18) placed on the curved edge (Figs. 2-3) and including a plastic core (¶ 21).

12. Leimkuehler does not disclose a metal jacket holding the plastic core in a curved configuration. Fisher teaches an object (1) having a curved edge (perimeter of 1) surrounded by a metal jacket (6) holding a core (5) in a curved configuration (Fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the refrigerator of Leimkuehler wherein the edges of strip 18 are surrounded with a metal jacket as taught by Fisher, since it would have provided a decorative metal facing on the strip.

13. Regarding claim 11, Leimkuehler, as modified, teaches a refrigerator wherein the strip has a groove (see annotated Fig. 4) into which the edge of the compartment for accommodating articles to be cooled is inserted (Fig. 4).



Leimkuehler Fig. 4

14. Regarding claim 12, Leimkuehler, as modified, teaches a refrigerator wherein the depth direction of the groove is aligned transversely to the radius of curvature of the decorative strip (Fig. 4).

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15. Regarding claim 13, Leimkuehler, as modified, teaches a refrigerator wherein the width of the groove increases, at least at certain points, from an inlet region of the groove to its bottom (Fig. 4 shows the width of the groove to increase from the top (inlet region) to its bottom).

16. Regarding claims 14-15, Leimkuehler, as modified, teaches a refrigerator wherein the jacket has a thickness (Fisher Fig. 2). Leimkuehler, as modified, does not teach a refrigerator wherein the jacket has a material thickness of about 0.1 to 0.3 mm. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the jacket such that its material thickness was about 0.2 mm.

17. Regarding claim 16, Leimkuehler, as modified, teaches a refrigerator with a plastic core (18) and a metal jacket (Fisher: 6). Leimkuehler, as modified, does not teach a refrigerator wherein the plastic core and the metal jacket are co-extruded. This claim is a product by process claim and the plastic core and metal jacket do not depend on the process of making it. The product-by-process limitation "co-extruded" would not be expected to impart distinctive structural characteristics to the plastic core and metal jacket. Therefore the claimed co-extruded metal jacket and plastic core is not different an unobvious from the plastic core and metal jacket of Leimkuehler, as modified by Fisher.

18. Regarding claim 17, Leimkuehler, as modified, teaches a refrigerator wherein the compartment for accommodating articles to be cooled includes a door compartment (Fig. 1).



***Conclusion***

19. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure because it gives a general state of the art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAN ROHRHOFF whose telephone number is (571)270-7624. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darnell Jayne can be reached on 571-272-7723. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/D. R./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3637  
10/13/10

/Janet M. Wilkens/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3637